

## COUNSELOR LANSING IS MAN OF THE HOUR

Heavy Load of Responsibility  
Falls on Real Diplomatist of  
State Department.

By JOHN SNURE.  
The imperturbable Robert Lansing, counselor for the State Department, is an official on whose shoulders in these troubled days rests a heavy load of responsibility.  
It is no secret to any of those familiar with the foreign affairs of the United States that President Wilson is taking a large hand in the conduct of these affairs. It has been said with basis that the President is, in a large measure, his own State Department.  
But while this is true, it also is true that on the counselor there devolves a burden such as no many officials would be willing to assume. The international sky since last July has been not only a stormy one for the belligerents of Europe, but it has also been cloudy for the United States.  
The longer the war in Europe goes on the more troublesome and complicated become the questions affecting the commerce and interests of neutrals. The recent "war zone" decree of Berlin and the British order in regard to a blockade of German commerce illustrate this fact.

Mexico Troublesome.  
And, as if the complications caused by the war in Europe were not enough, the Mexican tangle is as serious as ever. Nobody knows when the situation there will force the United States to take drastic measures.  
Then, again, there has been a tremendous demand that this country take advantage of the opportunity presented by the war and expand trade; that it make itself the foremost commercial nation of the world at a time when other leading powers are hampered by war.

Added to these, there is the cloud looming up in the far eastern sky. The grave nature of the complications threatened by the Japanese demands on China is just beginning to be generally appreciated.  
Untrained in the ways of diplomacy and unfamiliar with foreign affairs, Secretary Bryan himself cannot deal with the extremely important problems constantly arising to perplex the State Department, except in most general fashion. It is not as it used to be in the days when Root or John Hay or Richard Olney was the head of the department.

Formerly, in the State Department, when the Secretary of State was absent the First Assistant Secretary took active charge. But that is no longer the arrangement.

Counselor Takes Place.  
The counselor is the man who acts in all important matters when the Secretary is absent. He then becomes the acting head of the department. And, in practice, he is the real head of the department, handling the complicated matters, the preparation of important papers and correspondence and the like, fall on him.  
President Wilson relies much on Mr. Lansing. Ambassadors and ministers see him frequently on the most important missions. He is called to the White House at times for conferences of moment.

When John Bassett Moore took the place of counselor it was the expectation that he would be the actual, though not the nominal, head of the State Department. But he found the conditions unsatisfactory and unbecoming and did not remain. Mr. Lansing, according to all outward indications, gets along in the office more smoothly than Mr. Moore did, able authority on international matters though Mr. Moore is. Meantime, the assistant secretaries are largely in the background.  
Nobody questions the fact that Mr. Lansing is an expert in international law and an authority on diplomatic matters. Besides this, he has the faculty of keeping his poise and not losing his head. He takes the onerous duties of his place coolly and calmly, gets grumbled by newspaper managers, not to show it. In the sense that the most important notes to the foreign powers these days are issued and sometimes modified by the White House, the President may be said to shape them, but their original preparation is the work of Mr. Lansing. This is well understood in Congressional circles, where without respect to parts he stands well.

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## News Items and Notes of Club Activities in Washington

The Anthony League held its regular Tuesday afternoon meeting at the Porter, Mrs. Anna E. Hendley continuing her talk on the life of Susan B. Anthony. Tomorrow afternoon her subject will be "The Right in the Common Law" and the "Divorce Question in 1860." At the next regular meeting the question of vocational training in the public schools of the District of Columbia will be considered.  
Classes in Esperanto, Spanish, and French are well attended on Tuesday evenings at the Porter. The class in parliamentary law meets Saturdays at 7:45 at 2007 Columbia road. A class in Bible study under the auspices of the Anthony League will begin on March 20 at 2:30, under the instruction of Mrs. Mountford.

The Eastern Branch of the W. C. T. U. met at the home of Mrs. L. T. Royall, 408 A street southeast, last Wednesday evening. Mrs. Royall was assisted in entertaining by Mrs. Walter Guest.  
Reports from the various superintendents were given. Thirty-one new members were reported enrolled, through the efforts of Mrs. John D. Reeves. Mrs. Shelton, District superintendent, addressed the meeting. Mrs. Gilbert A. Clark sang a solo and readings were given by Miss Noel. It was voted to donate cents to the benefit party to be given by the women of the Home for the Aged.  
The meeting closed with the singing of the club hymn to the tune of "Tipperary."

On Tuesday afternoon of last week the Excelsior Literary Club met at the home of Mrs. E. A. Tibbets at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. K. Fulton, 1213 Vermont avenue northwest. Mrs. J. Edson Briggs presided, and about thirty-five members were in attendance, with several guests.  
The program of the afternoon opened with the piano solo, "Albion," by Edna MacDowell, played by Mrs. Fulton. Mrs. Lydia Adams Williams contributed a theological reading on "The Apocryphal Gospels," and Miss Nora McCree gave a paper on "Atlantis a Race." Mrs. Fulton sang a solo and an encore. Mrs. J. C. McCree read a topical poem and Dr. Richard Logan, Miss Culley, and Mrs. J. M. Holmes made brief remarks apropos of the afternoon's work.  
Mrs. Tibbets was assisted by her sister and her daughters, Mrs. Fulton and Mrs. Lewis. Tomorrow afternoon the club will meet with Mrs. G. W. Atkinson.

The Washington Wesleyan Club met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles Hughes in Sixteenth street. The local alumnae of Wesleyan have contributed \$4,265 to the \$500,000 fund for restoration and endowment recently raised by graduates and students of the college. It ranks sixteenth among fifty-three alumnae clubs. Plans were made for the spring luncheon that always takes the place of the April meeting.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy will give the fourth annual Home in Vermont avenue in the home ball room next Thursday evening. The officers of the organization will receive.

Committees on refreshments, decoration and music have been appointed, and a group of young ladies will have charge of all other arrangements.  
The Mary Washington Chapter of the D. A. R. heard a lecture on "The Big Questions of the Hour," by Miss Janet Richards at Raucher's Saturday evening.

An address on "The Value of Rhythmic Training for Health, Poise and Mental Power," by Mary Gale Davis, was given under the auspices of the District Federation of Women's Clubs at the Public Library Saturday morning. Rhythmic dances to illustrate the talk were a feature of the program.

The March meeting of the Ruth Brewster Chapter, D. A. R., was held Monday at the home of the recent, Mrs. Lisle S. Lipscomb, 2901 Sixteenth street, the date being the fourth anniversary of the founding of the chapter. It was organized in 1911, by Mrs. Frank Foster Greenawald, present State regent of the District. The name chosen for the chapter was in honor of the remote grandmother of the founder, who was a granddaughter of Elder William Brewster, a passenger on the Mayflower.

Though the chapter is small, it has been active and successful. Last year it led the forty-six chapters of the District in contributions to patriotic education, giving the largest single contribution. This year the work has been for the Red Cross and to assist in the celebration of the centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

An illustrated lecture is to be given in conjunction with the Keystone Chapter on March 23 at 8 o'clock in the red parlor of the Willard for the benefit of the hall fund. Barry Bulkley, of the Sons of the Revolution, will give his famous lecture on the Yellowstone Park. The report of the treasurer showed a good financial condition.  
Mrs. William Cummings Story, president general of the National Society, D. A. R., was unanimously elected an honorary member.  
An interesting program followed. The State regent made an address. The chapter announced the candidacy of its former regent, Mrs. Frank Foster Greenawald, for election to the office of State regent of the District. Refreshments were served.  
The District branch of the National Congress of Mothers held its regular monthly meeting at the Raleigh last Tuesday.  
Among the reports the most important was that of the committee on revision of the constitution. The chairman, Mrs. Edith C. Towne, also parliamentary officer of the organization, read the revised document to the assembly, preliminary to its adoption at the next meeting, when each article will be taken up for consideration. The reports of delegates from the mothers' clubs and parent teacher associations were followed by a trio of speakers, of whom Mrs. Graham Powell, first vice president of the Girls' Friendly Society of Washington, was first. Mrs. Powell illustrated her address with charts showing the status of this great movement, which now has a world membership of over a million girls. She explained the history, aims, training, and benefits of the organization. Mrs. Powell also told of the plans made to safeguard the girls who go to the Panama Ex-

position, either for work or pleasure. Mrs. Clara Neigh, of the Neighborhood House, spoke briefly on the training given and the work done at 470 N street southwest for the benefit of girls of that section and the southwest.  
Mrs. Louise Earl, who has recently published her new Bible charts, gave a demonstration and explanation of these aids to the study of the Bible at home and at school. Mrs. Earl has grouped the books of the Old and the New Testaments on charts that an adult may, in thirty minutes, be able to repeat them all in order forward and backward without difficulty. This offers a simplified method of study considered of great value to children and grown-ups alike by Bible teachers and members of the clergy who have had an opportunity to see the charts.  
Mrs. Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scout movement, was called to New York shortly before the meeting. She was scheduled to make an address on the work of her organization. At the conclusion of the program, a social hour followed.

William F. Hunt Chapter, O. E. S., has arranged to use its new stereopticon at the next meeting, to be held on the next meeting. This is an experiment for the chapter, and if the results obtained are satisfactory, the machine will be used permanently.

The National Genealogical Society, meeting with Dr. J. G. B. Bulloch, in the Octavia, examined a number of pictures and documents. Among them was a photograph of the Secret Past passed in Congress, November 9, 1775, by which the signers pledged themselves to secrecy in regard to the deliberations of Congress. Among the signers was an ancestor of Dr. Bulloch, Archibald Bulloch by name. A photograph of the painting of Mr. Bulloch and his family, made when he was president of the province of Georgia, was also shown.

The annual dinner of the College Women's Club will be given at the Raleigh on Saturday evening. Those taking part in the program are Miss Madge North, centrally; Miss Margaret O'Toole, harpist, and Miss Vida Sutton, of New York. Miss Sutton, who has made an extensive study of the attitude of European women to present-day questions, will speak on "Her Point of View."

## DISTRICT DEBT CUT HEAVILY IN DECADE

Census Report Shows Reduction  
of \$5,500,000 Between  
1902 and 1913.

The District showed a decrease of \$5,500,000, or 37.7 per cent, in net municipal debt between 1902 and 1913, a Census Bureau report today shows. New Hampshire is the only State which shows a decrease in this respect.  
Three States and the District showed a lower per capita public indebtedness. The rate of decrease for these States and the District were as follows: Rhode Island, 22.3 per cent; New Hampshire, 9.2 per cent; New Mexico, 1.6 per cent; District of Columbia, 48.4 per cent.  
An increase of more than \$2,000,000 in the public debt between 1902 and 1913, bringing the total net indebtedness up to \$4,850,667.32, or \$46.77 per capita, is shown in the census report.

The 1913 total comprises a national or Federal debt of \$1,028,664,056, State debts amounting to \$5,842,366, and an aggregate indebtedness for counties, municipalities and other minor civil divisions of \$3,475,964,550.  
New York has the largest county and municipal indebtedness, a total of \$1,096,000,000. Pennsylvania and Ohio, with \$246,000,000 and \$234,500,000, respectively, stand next. New York had a per capita indebtedness of \$107.71 in 1913, heading this list. Arkansas, with a per capita debt of \$7.58, stands at the bottom of the list.

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